

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, LE

SUBJECT: MINISTER INTERIOR CAMILLE CHAMOUN SEEKS USG FINANCIAL
AID FOR AUB

1. MINISTER OF INTERIOR CAMILLE CHAMOUN INVITED ME
TO CALL LAST WEEK.

2. REASON FOR WANTING TO SEE ME IS THAT CHAMOUN, WEARING
HIS MINISTER OF INTERIOR HAT, IS WORRIED THAT RECENTLY
ANNOUNCED TUITION INCREASES AT AUB WILL INCITE STUDENT
UNREST. IN SUCH AN EVENTUALITY, CHAMOUNS SOLEMNLY PROMISED
TO DO HIS DUTY AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND MAINTAIN
SECURITY, BUT HE IS ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD
BE MUCH WISER FOR USG TO MEET THE AUB DEFICIT BY GRANT
AID AND AVOID SUCH AN EVENTUALITY. CHAMOUN EMPHASIZED
HE WISHED HIS REQUEST BE FORWARDED USG, WHICH HE IS
CONVINCED AS A PRAGMATIC INSTITUTION WILL SEE WISDOM OF
HIS RECOMMENDATION, PARTICULARLY WHEN AMOUNTS INVOLVED
ARE RELATIVELY SMALL IN COMPARISON WITH BILLIONS AND
HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS WE ARE SPENDING RESPECTIVELY
FOR ISRAEL AND EGYPT.

3. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, AUB, FACING FINANCIAL CRISIS,
ANNOUNCED AUGUST 19 TUITION BEING RAISED. ANNUAL TUITION
RAISE VARIES, GOING FROM 3,115 POUNDS TO 3,575 POUNDS IN
ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE (15 PER CENT INCREASE) AND
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GOING FROM 3,115 POUNDS TO 4,360 POUNDS (40 PERCENT

INCREASE) IN MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

4. I TOLD CHAMOUN I WOULD OF COURSE REPORT HIS REQUEST TO WASHINGTON BUT THAT I SERIOUSLY DOUBTED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MEET HIS RECOMMENDATION. THOSE FRIENDS OF AUB BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND IN BEIRUT WERE RELIEVED THAT WE HAD BEEN ABLE TO KEEP US GRANT AID TO AUB AT APPROXIMATELY SAME LEVEL NOW FOR SEVERAL YEARS. I REVIEWED WHOLE PROBLEM OF AUB' FINANCIAL SITUATION, THE REASON THEREFOR AND THE POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF AUB'S REAL ESTATE, PLUS INCREASED TUITION RATES, ALL OF WHICH WOULD RESULT, WE HOPE, IN AUB BEING RELATIVELY SELF-SUFFICIENT BY 1980. CHAMOUN LISTENED ATTENTIVELY BUT WAS NOT REPEAT NOT CONVINCED. OBVIOUSLY INTELLECTUALLY HE IS STILL BACK IN THE DAYS OF THE AMERICAN CORNUCOPIA AND CANNOT ACCEPT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION CANNOT JUST MAKE AVAILABLE ANOTHER 10 TO 12 MILLION FOR AUB.

5. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS ON WHAT TO TELL CHAMOUN. RECOMMEND THAT THEY BE RATHER PRECISE AND DETAILED, SO THAT I CAN PRESENT A GOOD CASE TO THE OLD GENTLEMAN, WHO CERTAINLY IN HIS OWN WAY IS TRYING TO BE HELPFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE. SUGGEST I BE GIVEN COMPARABLE TUITION FIGURES FOR IVY LEAGUE AND GOOD LARGE STATE SCHOOLS (FOR OUT OF STATE STUDENTS).
GODLEY

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